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## UC system won't curb enrollment to offset decreased state funding

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The University of California announced yesterday that it would not limit enrollment growth next academic year as a way to deal with \$332 million the system will have to cut.

This is good news for the record 121,005 who applied as next fall's freshmen or transfer students, but the same may not hold true for the 2009-10 school year, officials warned.

Several ideas on how to deal with the governor's proposed budget cuts, including limiting enrollment, have been on the table since January, when the state deficit was revealed.

"With the strong increase in undergraduate applications this year, we feel it is our obligation to California to continue meeting our commitments under the Master Plan for Higher Education and expand our enrollment capacity as necessary," UC Provost Wyatt R. Hume said in a prepared statement.

No decisions have been made on what will be cut, but the university's governing board of regents will discuss ideas next month at its meeting in San Francisco.

The expectation is that the university will raise student fees 7 percent to 10 percent. Other impacts include larger classes, reductions in campus services and research programs, and pay freezes.

Officials say they want to make it clear that unless the state funds its enrollment growth for 2008-09, they will not be able to increase enrollment in 2009-10.

The UC system's practice has been to offer a place at one of its campuses to all students who meet its eligibility requirements.

“Students have worked hard to become eligible for the university, and we do not want them to worry at the eleventh hour about whether they will have a place at UC,” Hume said.

California State University announced last month that it would cap enrollment at current levels, affecting 10,000 students it anticipated adding to its 23 campuses next year.

Limiting growth when public college systems are seeing applications increase could affect the marketplace, Hume said.

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